In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims:

--9.   (New) A method to code and decode digital data transmitted or stored

2   according to the prioritized pixel transmission method, wherein the information to be

coded or decoded comprises individual pixel groups, wherein each pixel group has a

4   positional value, at least one pixel value, and a priority value assigned to it, said method

comprising at least one key used with which the positional value and/or the pixel

6   value/pixel values of a pixel group are selectively coded or decoded.

10.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the key is selectively

2   linked to the type of information content to be coded and/or to the original source, and/or

to the transmission medium used, or it contains a temporal relationship.

11.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein each pixel value, or one

2   or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate key.

12.   (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein each pixel value, or

2   one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate key.

13.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein a symmetrical coding

2   method is carried out.

14.   (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein a symmetrical coding

2   method is carried out.

15.   (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein a symmetrical coding

2   method is carried out.

16.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein an asymmetrical coding

2   method is carried out.

17.   (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein an asymmetrical

2   coding method is carried out.

18.   (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein an asymmetrical

2   coding method is carried out.

19.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein in that the pixel groups

2   are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

20.   (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein in that the pixel groups

2   are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

21.   (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein in that the pixel groups

2   are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

22.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the files contain image

2   data, video data or audio data.

23.   (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the files contain image

2   data, video data or audio data.

24.   (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the files contain image

2   data, video data or audio data.

25.   (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the files contain image

2   data, video data or audio data.

26.   (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the color level of the

2   pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

27.   (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the color level of the

2   pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

28.   (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the color level of the

2   pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

29.   (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the color level of the

2   pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.--